

Lancaster County, John Murphy, Public Defender of Lincoln County; Ron Brown, Nebraska County Attorneys Association; Bennet Hornstein, Public Defender, Douglas County; Larry Ruth, the Nebraska State Bar Association and Jack Mills, the County Officials Association. Well it seems to me that those people did more homework on this bill than I have done and if they can't support the bill, we shouldn't support the bill or the committee amendments because the committee amendments do not change the bill that much. So with that, Mr. President, I will not say any more and address myself to the committee amendments and if they pass I will wait for the bill but I would suggest we do not adopt the committee amendments and let the bill go.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, do you have an amendment to the amendment? Perhaps we should adopt that first before we adopt the committee amendments.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, I would appreciate the adoption of my amendment to the committee amendments. I did pass it out on your desk in case you want to look at it. It is totally unintelligible so I wouldn't even bother looking at it. The committee amendments did raise a small problem for public defenders in the large metropolitan areas in that the committee amendments would have required a public defender in an urban area to get a statement of financial indigency from an accused criminal, contemporaneous with their entry into the jail before they could do any kind of background work of this person who is under investigation or under arrest and the public defender in Omaha spoke to me about that and said that posed a pretty good problem for them because under their practice they simply call the jails. They literally make a jail call daily. They make a jail call and they say in the jail, anybody who wants to talk to a public defender come forth and so they get, a handful of men will come forth or women will come forth and they then make some initial comments to the putative clients and then later on they go ahead and determine indigency. They are fearful that if we require the statement of indigency at the outset, that that particular kind of jail call will be inhibited if not basically eliminated. I said I understood that and, incidentally these amendments have all been worked